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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

MAEGAWA et al.

Art Unit: 2161

Application No.: 09/148,832

Examiner: J. Hayes

Filed: September 4, 1998

Atty Docket No. 103203-08003

For: NETWORK SYSTEM, DATA DISTRIBUTION METHOD, AND RECORDING MEDIUM ON WHICH DISTRIBUTION USE DATA IS RECORDED AND WHICH CAN BE READ BY COMPUTER

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MAY 28 2002

Technology Center 2100

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D. C. 20231

May 24, 2002

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits for the above-identified Continued Prosecution Application, please amend the Application as follows:

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 1 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend claims 2, 18, and 35, and add new claim 51 as follows:

2) (Once Amended) A network system as set forth in claim 51, wherein:  
the boundary set for said data package includes a boundary relating to charging for a transaction of said content,

said information of said predetermined attribute included in the data package includes information relating to charging for said content, and

said transaction management means has a charging processing means for carrying out processing based on said information relating to charging every time content delineated by said boundary is newly substantially acquired by said data utilization means.